

REMARKS***Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 1-6 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lee et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,545) and *Nagatomo* (JP 411073799A).

Claims 1, 6, and 14 have been amended to include the subject matter from claim 7 indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 8 – 13 have been amended to change their dependency from claim 7 to claim 1. Applicant believes that claims 1 – 6 and 8 – 15 are now in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-13 contain allowable subject matter over prior arts of record in view of the specific steps of “selectively coupling odd local bit lines to odd global bit lines” and “selectively coupling even local bit lines to even global bit lines”.

CONCLUSION

For the above-cited reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow the claims of the present application. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2211. No new matter has been added and no additional fee is required by this amendment and response.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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